CLAIMS

I (we) claim:

1.   In a computer network connecting an electronic auction metrics computer and one or more electronic auction computers, wherein the electronic auction metrics computer is coupled to one or more user computers over a computer network, a method comprising:

receiving electronic auction information at the electronic auction metrics computer from one or more electronic auction computers, wherein the electronic auction information includes information about the results and performance of an electronic auction;

storing the electronic auction information in a metrics database, wherein the metrics database is coupled with the electronic auction metrics computer via a computer network;

receiving a request from a user computer for a specified metrics report, wherein the user specifies details about the report including subject matter of the report, timeframe for the report, and report delivery method;

transmitting a request to the metrics database for metrics data, wherein the metrics data that is requested is based on the report request from the user;

receiving the metrics data from the metrics database;

creating a metrics report based on the request from the user computer, wherein the data used to create the metrics report is the metrics data received from the metrics database; and

providing the metrics report to the user via a delivery method specified by the user in the report request.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein the computer network is the World Wide Web, and

wherein receiving electronic auction information occurs automatically at pre-determined intervals;

wherein the electronic auction information includes a business, a commodity, an auction value, and a date of completion; and

further comprising processing the electronic auction information before the electronic auction information is stored in the metrics database.

3.   In a computer network connecting an electronic auction metrics computer and one or more electronic auction computers, wherein the electronic auction metrics computer is coupled to one or more user computers over a computer network, a method comprising:

receiving electronic auction information at the electronic auction metrics computer from one or more electronic auction computers;

storing the electronic auction information in a metrics database;

receiving a request from a user computer for a specified metrics report;

searching the metrics database for metrics data, wherein the metrics data is based on the electronic auction information;

creating a metrics report based on the request from the user; and

providing the metrics report to the user computer.

4.   The method of claim 3 further comprising requesting electronic auction information from one or more electronic auction computers.

5.   The method of claim 3 further comprising transmitting electronic auction information to the electronic auction metrics computer automatically at pre-determined intervals from one or more electronic auction computers.

6.   The method of claim 3 wherein the user request includes details about the requested report including subject matter of the report, timeframe of the report, and a report delivery method.

7.   The method of claim 3 wherein the electronic auction metrics computer is the same as the one or more electronic auction computers.

8.   A system to assist in generating metrics reports based on reverse electronic auctions performed by one or more electronic auction computers, comprising:

means for receiving electronic auction information from one or more electronic auction computers;

means for storing the electronic auction information;

means for receiving a request for a metrics report;

means for searching the metrics database for metrics data;

means for creating a metrics report; and

means for providing the metrics report to the user.

9.   In a computer network connecting an electronic auction metrics computer and one or more electronic auction computers, wherein the electronic auction metrics computer is coupled to one or more user computers over a computer network, an electronic auction metrics system comprising:

a gather component for receiving electronic auction information at the electronic auction metrics computer from one or more electronic auction computers;

a database for storing the electronic auction information;

a submission component for receiving requests for metrics reports from users on user computers, wherein the user request includes parameters of the desired report;

a metrics report component for creating a metrics report, wherein the metrics report is based on parameters specified by the user and the electronic auction information stored in the database; and

a display component for displaying the metrics report to the user.

10.   The system of claim 9 wherein the electronic auction metrics computer and at least one electronic auction computer are the same computer.

11.   In a computer network connecting an electronic auction metrics computer and one or more electronic auction computers, wherein the electronic auction metrics computer is coupled to one or more user computers over a computer network, a method comprising:

receiving electronic auction information from one or more electronic auction computers;

storing the electronic auction information in a metrics database;

receiving a request from a user computer for a specified metrics report;

searching the metrics database for metrics data, wherein the metrics data is based on the electronic auction information;

creating a metrics report based on the request from the user; and

transmitting the created metrics report to the user computer.

12.   The method of claim 11 further comprising requesting electronic auction information from one or more electronic auction computers.

13.   The method of claim 11 wherein electronic auction information is received automatically at pre-determined intervals from one or more electronic auction computers.

14. The method of claim 11 wherein the user request includes the desired subject matter of the report.

15. The method of claim 11 wherein the user request includes a delivery method for the report.

16. The method of claim 11 wherein the user request includes a start time and an end time for the metrics data used to create the metrics report.

17. The method of claim 11 wherein the metrics report includes electronic auctions performed only for a certain business.

18. The method of claim 11 wherein the metrics report includes electronic auctions performed to acquire a particular commodity.

19. The method of claim 11 further comprising calculating the savings achieved through use of electronic auctions, wherein the savings is based on a pre-auction value and a post-auction value, and wherein further the created metrics report includes the savings achieved for each electronic auction.

20. In a computer network connecting an electronic auction metrics computer and one or more electronic auction computers, wherein the electronic auction metrics computer is coupled to one or more user computers over a computer network, the electronic auction metrics computer comprising:

      means for receiving electronic auction information;

      means for processing the electronic auction information;

      means for storing the electronic auction information;

      means for receiving a request for a specified metrics report;

means for creating a metrics report based on the electronic auction information; and

means for transmitting the created metrics report.

21. A computer-readable medium whose contents cause a computer to generate an electronic auction metrics report by a method comprising:

receiving electronic auction information from one or more electronic auction computers;

receiving a request from a user computer for a specified metrics report;

creating a metrics report based on the request from the user and the electronic auction information received; and

transmitting the created metrics report to the user computer.

22. The computer-readable medium of claim 21 further comprising storing the electronic auction information in a database.

23. The computer-readable medium of claim 21 further comprising requesting electronic auction information from one or more electronic auction computers.

24. The computer-readable medium of claim 21 wherein electronic auction information is received automatically at pre-determined intervals from one or more electronic auction computers.

25. The computer-readable medium of claim 21 further comprising calculating the savings achieved through use of electronic auctions, wherein the savings is based on a pre-auction value and a post-auction value, and wherein further the created metrics report includes the savings achieved for each electronic auction.

26. In a computer network connecting an electronic auction metrics computer and one or more electronic auction computers, wherein the electronic auction metrics computer is coupled to one or more user computers over a computer network, a method comprising:

at a user computer, receiving from a user a request for a metrics report based on electronic auction information;

at a user computer, sending to an electronic auction metrics computer a request for a metrics report, wherein the request includes information identifying the type of metrics report desired;

at a user computer, receiving from the electronic auction metrics computer an indication of the metrics report; and

at a user computer, displaying to the user the metrics report.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein the user request includes a delivery method for the report.

28. The method of claim 26 wherein the electronic auction metrics computer, upon receiving the request that the user desires a metrics report, searches a metrics database and creates a metrics report based on the electronic auction information.

29. The method of claim 26 wherein the user request includes a start time and an end time for the metrics data used to create the metrics report.

30. The method of claim 26 wherein the user request includes a business.

31. The method of claim 26 wherein the user request includes a commodity.

32. The method of claim 26 wherein the type of metrics report specified by the user is a standard metrics report.

33. The method of claim 26 wherein the type of metrics report specified by the user is a non-standard metrics report.

34. A computer-readable medium containing a data structure for use by an electronic auction metrics system, the data structure comprising:

metrics auction information, wherein the metrics auction information includes

an auction number,

a commodity,

a business,

an auction value,

a date,

a description of the product procured, and

an identification of a person responsible for the electronic auction.

35. The computer-readable medium of claim 34 wherein the computer-readable medium is a logical node in a computer network receiving the contents.

36. The computer-readable medium of claim 34 wherein the computer-readable medium is a computer-readable disk.

37. The computer-readable medium of claim 34 wherein the computer-readable medium is a data transmission medium transmitting a generated data signal containing the contents.

38.   The computer-readable medium of claim 34 wherein the computer-readable medium is a memory of a computer system.